

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
LIBRARY COMMISSION AND TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Library Commission convened in a joint session with Torrance City Council at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 in the Nakano Theatre, Torrance Cultural Arts Center.

II. ROLL CALL

Library Commission

Present: Commissioners Perkins, Ross, Stapleton, Wasserman, Wengrow, and Chairperson Sargent.

Absent: Commissioner Ravine (excused).

City Council

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Numark (excused).

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Clerk Herbers, Community Services Director Jones, Assistant City Manager Giordano, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan, City Librarian Theyer, Principal Librarian of Operations Vinke, Principal Librarian of Public Services Wierzbicki, Senior Librarian Van Vranken, Senior Librarian Firchow, and Senior Librarian Aguado.

III. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Stapleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Ross moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

V. DISCUSSION OF LIBRARY OPERATIONS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

Va. REVIEW OF LIBRARY'S PLAN OF SERVICE

Va.1. Create Young Readers – Review of youth programming opportunities

Commissioner Stapleton stated that birth to age five is critical for learning to read and discussed the Library's storytimes that provide first exposure to excellent books, how a book works, and how reading works. She described the Library's 300 storytimes per year, reaching 14,000 children and caretakers, and the new toddler time that has been added for children age 18 months to three.

Va.2. Satisfy Curiosity – Library History and A Century of Service

Commissioner Perkins discussed the history of Torrance Public Library since 1913 and its focus on learning for all ages. She shared programs and activities being planned to celebrate its Century of Service that include a video contest, summer carnival for youth, program on Isabel Henderson, and gala event in the fall.

Va.3. Stimulate Imagination – Podcasting project in conjunction with Youth Council

Commissioner Wasserman provided a report on the Commission's efforts, with productive interplay with Torrance Youth Council, to create a series of short videos promoting books and the Library. He showed a short podcast that was made about the book Ira Sleeps Over and featuring City Librarian Theyer and Commissioner Wengrow.

Va.4. Succeed in School – Education and School Relations work and partnerships with TUSD

Commissioner Wengrow, liaison for Education and School Relations, discussed the importance of working with Torrance Unified School District and Torrance schools to provide resources for students that include online tutoring with HelpNow, homework centers, and Homework Helper programs.

Va.5. Visit a Comfortable Place – Integrating technology into library services

Commissioner Ross discussed how the Library is integrating technology to make basics easier with its Smartphone and Tablet app that allows users to search for materials, get hours, locations, and maps to all Torrance libraries, and place holds and renew items. He shared information about the launch of e-book loans, e-mail notifications, and electronic resources that are available remotely.

Va.6. Advocacy – The Commission's role as advocates for State and Federal funding

Chairperson Sargent provided a report on State budget cuts, the importance of maintaining funding in order to receive federal funds, and programs that are in jeopardy that include Braille and Talking Books, training, and inter library deliveries. She related how Commissioners have sent letters, visited legislators, attended CLA conferences, and participated in advocacy training.

Mayor Scotto commended Commissioners for doing a phenomenal job and noted that Torrance is fortunate to have such a great Library system and programs.

Councilmember Sutherland expressed his appreciation to Commissioners for their hard work and recognized Commissioner Stapleton for her years of service.

Councilmember Barnett thanked Commissioners for the work they do on behalf of citizens and congratulated the Library for its 100 years of service. He noted that highlights of his career were working with City Librarians Buckley and West.

Councilmember Furey expressed appreciation to Commissioners and staff for their hard work and stated that they should take pride in what they do.

Councilmember Rhilinger applauded the Commission for its outstanding efforts and ideas as well as Library staff for always managing to come through in spite of budget cuts. She stated that residents rely on the Library for job hunting and recreation and expressed hope that funding will be restored.

Councilmember Brewer noted that libraries are busier than they have ever been and that he is proud to represent a city that has such a great Library system.

Mayor Scotto challenged Commissioners and staff to find creative ways to attract more people to the Library and to participate in its services. He expressed his hope that in the near future the Library would be able to do things that it has not been able to do, such as being open every Sunday and staying open longer hours.

VI. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI.a Chairperson Sargent thanked Councilmembers for their continued support. She stated that she enjoyed attending the CLA conference in November as well as Rosie Sato's gift wrapping program in December.

VI.b Commissioner Wasserman pointed out that people return again and again to the Library because they love their librarians.

VI.c Commissioner Stapleton stated that she has enjoyed her time on the Commission and expressed appreciation to City Council for giving her the opportunity to serve the City.

VI.d Commissioner Ross stated that Commissioner Stapleton has been the backbone of the Commission and will be hard to replace. He gave kudos to Library staff and noted that he has applied for reappointment.

VI.e Commissioner Perkins stated that she feels fortunate to be able to work with such a great staff and forward looking City Council.

VI.f Commissioner Wengrow shared a wonderful recent visit to North Torrance Library with her grandson.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:14 p.m., City Council recessed to City Council Chambers for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: At 6:15 p.m., Commissioner Stapleton, seconded by Commissioner Ross, moved to adjourn the meeting to January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library meeting room and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Sargent so ordered.

Approved as Submitted February 11, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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